

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 04776 230815Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /066 W
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R 230313Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2507
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 4776

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NZ
SUBJ: MOYLE AFFAIR - RESIGNATION

REF: WELLINGTON 4756

1. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION ROWLING ANNOUNCED EVENING OF DECEMBER 22 RESIGNATION FROM PARLIAMENT OF FORMER AGRICULTURE MINISTER COLIN MOYLE. MOYLE'S RESIGNATION COMES IN THE FACE OF JUDICIAL INQUIRY INTO SO-CALLED "MOYLE AFFAIR" AND THE INQUIRY FINDINGS THAT MOYLE HAD MISLED PARLIAMENT AND OPPOSITION LEADER ROWLING.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MOYLE'S DECISION TO RESIGN WAS FORCED UPON HIM BY ROWLING AND OTHER LABOUR PARTY OFFICIALS WHO MET WITH MOYLE IN WELLINGTON ON DECEMBER 22. ROWLING'S COMMENTS TO THE PRESS INDICATE THAT HE FEELS PERSONALLY MISLED BY MOYLE AND ANGERED THAT HE WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED OF THE SITUATION BOTH IN JUNE 1975 WHEN ROWLING WAS PRIME MINISTER AND AGAIN IN NOVEMBER WHEN INCIDENT CAME TO HEAD DURING PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE.

3. ALTHOUGH MOYLE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL TRY FOR LABOUR PARTY NOMINATION IN BY-ELECTION WHICH WILL FOLLOW HIS RESIGNATION, HE IS CERTAIN TO BE CHALLENGED IN HIS ELECTORATE BY OTHER
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LABOURITES, INCLUDING SEVERAL FORMER MP'S WHO WERE DEFEATED IN THE 1975 ELECTIONS. MOYLE'S SEAT HAS IN THE PAST BEEN CONSIDERED "SAFE" FOR LABOUR AND IS THEREFORE ESPECIALLY ATTRACTIVE.
SELDEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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